GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:365
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2015
Management of e-Waste
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether domestic e-waste including products of everyday use such as computers, television sets, mobile phones, etc., contain large amount of toxic elements which contaminate the soil and ground water;
(b) if so, the details thereof including the amount of electronic waste generated in the country over the last five years;
(c) the policy/rules formulated for the safe disposal of industrial and domestic electronic waste in the country;
(d) whether a large number of industrial units and public enterprises are reportedly violating the rules governing e-waste management and if so, the details thereof along with the monitoring mechanism put in place in this regard and the action taken against the erring industries; and
(e) the steps taken by the Government for effective e-waste management in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) & (b) Toxic constituents such as Lead, Mercury, Cadmium, Hexavalent Chromium, Polybrominated biphenyls and Polybrominated diphenyl ethers are used in the manufacturing of electronic devices. Disposal of e-waste from such electronic devices, without processing it in an environmentally sound manner, may affect the human health and environment including soil and ground water. As per the survey carried out by the Central Pollution Control Board during the year 2005, 1,46,800 MT of e-waste was generated in the country.

(c) The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has notified e-waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011. These Rules have come in to force from 1st May 2012 and are applicable to the e-waste, generated from IT and telecommunication equipment and consumer electrical and electronic items. These Rules apply to producer, consumer, collection centre, dismantler and recycler of e-waste. The concept of Extended Producer Responsibility has been enshrined in these Rules as per which the producers shall be responsible for environmentally sound management of e-waste generated from their end of life equipment.
To ensure better implementation of management of electronic waste, Ministry has published draft e-Waste Management Rules, 2015. The provisions of this Draft Rule include expanding producers' responsibility, setting up of Producers' Responsibility Organizations, and e-waste Exchange, assigning specific responsibility to bulk consumers of electronic products for safe disposal, providing for economic incentives for collection of electronic waste, and other measures to include dedicated responsibility of electronic and electrical product manufacturers for collection and channelizing of electronic waste. Simultaneously, the Ministry has also published draft Hazardous and Other Waste (Management and Transboudary Movement) Rules, 2015 with an aim to simplify and decentralize the import procedures of the specified wastes. Under the proposed Rules the user industries intending to import the specified industrial inputs will not be required to take separate authorization rather the Consents to Operate granted by State Pollution Control Boards will be sufficient authority. The proposal is to decentralize the import approval at SPCB level on the basis of approved standard operating procedure by the Ministry. The proposed amendment prohibits the import of household wastes, solid plastic waste, waste electronic assembly scraps and tyres and direct reuse.

(d)As per Rule 14 and Schedule III of e-waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011 monitoring of compliance of authorization and registration conditions falls under the purview of State Pollution Control Boards/ Pollution Control Committee. No large scale violation of these Rules by industrial units and public enterprises has been reported to the Ministry.
(e) In order to facilitate e-waste management in the country, this Ministry is implementing the scheme, "Creation of Management Structure for Hazardous Substances" under which financial assistance is provided for awareness and capacity building activities relating to e-waste management and for setting up of integrated recycling facility for e-waste. In addition, guidelines for implementation of e-waste rules, 2011 have been formulated.
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